

Message

From: Smith, Judy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0EE19F414AED418DA7EA753C0A1D7B85-SMITH, JUDY]
Sent: 4/19/2013 8:08:02 PM
To: Fordham, Tami [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=347c9ff04ed340568194c316fd05fa18-Fordham, Tami]; Kader, Hanady [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=46e5f0a4eda04562a86d1e7e09e3bf0f-Kader, Hanady]
CC: Parkin, Richard [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4958196c666e4228adc4b103d07f4166-Parkin, Richard]
Subject: RE: Tribal Feature - Changes Needed

Hi Tami Your timing is perfect. I was going to meet with Charles shortly and change some items Sheila identified in the peer review section. Judy

From: Fordham, Tami
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 1:06 PM
To: Kader, Hanady
Cc: Parkin, Richard; Smith, Judy
Subject: Tribal Feature - Changes Needed

Hi Hanady There are some language changes that need to be made to this, please see below. Rick found a few inconsistencies in other information and requested that I work with you to make changes. I also removed the National Tribal Water Council and the National Tribal Operations Committee from the list.

THANKS!! Tami

INTERNAL DELIBERATIVE

Engaging Bristol Bay's Tribal Communities

Content

With 229 federally-recognized tribal governments in Alaska, 19 distinct language areas, and six distinct cultural regions, Alaska Native tribes are a significant presence in the state. Their connection to the land and dependence on it are factors we regularly consider when working on environmental issues in Alaska.

There are 31 federally-recognized tribal governments in the Bristol Bay area, 13 of which are in the Kvichak and Nushagak watersheds. The salmon runs of Bristol Bay serve as a major subsistence food source and provide many native residents with income and an important cultural link.

Bristol Bay tribes petition EPA

EPA launched the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment in response to petitions from federally-recognized tribes and others who wrote to EPA with concerns about how large-scale mining could impact Bristol Bay fisheries. Other tribes and stakeholders requested that EPA wait for mining permit applications to determine the potential environmental impacts of mining. The assessment will provide a better understanding of the Bristol Bay Watershed and will inform consideration of development in the area.

In May 2012, EPA held public meetings in Bristol Bay villages to hear directly from Alaska native residents. Continued tribal input is a vital component of the assessment.

Meeting with Bristol Bay area tribes

EPA officials have made many visits to engage with Alaska tribes since launching our watershed assessment - including twenty five visits to twelve villages and additional meetings in Alaska, Seattle, and Washington D.C.

We invited all Bristol Bay tribal governments to participate in tribal consultation, and we're available to meet with tribes and tribal groups that would like information on the assessment.

Representatives from Tribes and tribal groups we've connected with at meetings or by phone include:

- Alaska Peninsula Corp.
- Aleknagik Village
- Bristol Bay Native Corp.
- Clarks Point Village Council
- Curyung Tribal Council
- Ekwok Village Council
- Igiugig Village Council
- Iliamna Village Council
- Iliamna Development Corp.
- Iliamna Natives Limited
- Kokhanok Village Council
- Koliganek Village Council
- Levelock Village Council
- Levelock Natives Assn.
- Manokotak Village Council
- Naknek Village Council
- New Stuyahok Village
- Newhalen Village Council
- Nondalton Village Council
- Nuna Resources Inc.
- Nunamta Aulukestai
- Paug-vik Village
- Pedro Bay Native Corp

Pedro Bay Village

- Portage Creek Village

- Togiak Village

The role of traditional knowledge

Tribes have special knowledge of the Bristol Bay watershed because they have lived there for thousands of years. This is referred to as *traditional knowledge*.

Two anthropologists with extensive experience in Alaska have worked to document and include traditional knowledge in our watershed assessment. They interviewed 53 elders and culture bearers who were identified as authoritative sources of information about subsistence, traditional ecological knowledge, nutrition, social relations and spiritual aspects of their culture.

A government-to-government relationship

EPA has an obligation to work with tribes on a *government-to-government* basis on decisions or activities that impact them. The concept of tribes as sovereign nations was written into the U.S. Constitution and has been affirmed by the courts, Congress and the President.

The tribal governments in Bristol Bay have an opportunity to engage the federal government on decisions impacting Bristol Bay resources in a process called *tribal consultation*.

More about traditional knowledge

Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a system of understanding one's environment based on observations and experience. It is built over generations as people depend on the land and sea for their food, materials, and culture.



Local knowledge systems are based on the shared experiences, customs, values, traditions, lifestyles, social interactions, ideological orientations and spiritual beliefs specific to Native communities. This understanding evolves as new knowledge is obtained and generated.

Scientists recognize the value of working with people who live in an area and who have great insight into the natural processes at work in that area. While the scientific perspective is often different from the traditional perspective, both have a great deal to offer one another. Working together is the best way of helping us achieve a better common understanding of nature.

The tribal governments in Bristol Bay have an opportunity to engage the federal government on decisions impacting Bristol Bay resources in a process called *tribal consultation*.

EPA has engaged tribes in official government-to-government meetings as part of the Bristol Bay watershed assessment. We've also held discussions and informational community meetings with tribal members, tribal village corporations and non-profit organizations.

Our engagement with tribes is a consistent thread in the assessment from start to finish. As year-round, lifelong residents, Alaska Native Villages have a great stake in Bristol Bay's future.

Tami Fordham

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